

Name: Melissa Towle

Date: March 11, 2021

Bill Number: 5696

By: McEntee, Tanzi and Fogarty

Viewpoint: In favor of the passage of this bill

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Melissa Towle, I am a resident of South Kingstown, a parent of three school-aged children and the chair of the South Kingstown School Building Committee. I am writing to ask that you pass bill 5696, proposed by McEntee, Tanzi and Fogarty, to authorize the town of South Kingstown to issue a bond referendum to secure funding for the improvement of our public school facilities.

It would be ideal for this referendum to occur in May to allow for ample time for the further development of the design. It is critical that this project move forward in a timely manner to ensure that our community can secure all of the potential financial reimbursements that the State is currently offering. If this referendum is delayed, this project could forfeit up to 15% in State reimbursement because we would not be able to ensure that we meet RI Dept. of Education submittal deadlines.

This project is crucial to the success of our students. Our buildings have tens of millions of dollars worth of repairs that are needed. We have more facilities open that we need or are capable of maintaining. This project would allow us both to consolidate and improve. Additionally, investing in our school buildings would give our educators the opportunity to teach in buildings that are designed to better support their educational initiatives. Denying this bill or postponing this referendum beyond May 2021 would not only result in a loss of needed finances but also result in an unnecessary loss of time.

Passing this bill means that we are taking the next step toward ensuring more students can be learning in facilities that keep them safer and drier and that will be designed in ways that are more conducive to how our educators are teaching.

I hope that you can see the great, great potential that this project has to offer. I am deeply committed to working to make it a success. I hope you will join me in enthusiastically welcoming this wonderful opportunity that we get the privilege of supporting and enacting. Please pass bill 5696.

Thank you,

Melissa Towle

South Kingstown School Building Committee chair

617-966-3435 mtowle@sksd-ri.net